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UNH Student Health Benefit Plan Identified As A Model Plan For Health Care Reform

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DURHAM, N.H. - A national study group devoted to considering the impact of health care reform for the college student population recently recognized the University of New Hampshire's Student Health Benefits Plan as a model program for providing health insurance for college students. The Lookout Mountain Group, a non-partisan study group, selected a small number of programs that fully comply with the American College Health Association's standards for student health insurance/benefit plans and have highly successful management features such as direct contracting with local health care providers or adoption of self-funding systems.

Open enrollment for new and returning students began this month and will continue through September 18, 2009. Kevin Charles, assistant vice president of Student and Academic Services and executive director of Health Services at UNH, noted "The recent downturn in the economy is causing many students and parents to carefully consider their health insurance choices, and we feel that our Student Health Benefits Plan provides an excellent option for them to consider." The cost for UNH's plan averages \$135 per month for student coverage, and provides \$1 million lifetime maximum, prescription drug coverage, coverage for mental health care services and primary care services, as well as worldwide coverage.

Only 15 percent of college and university health plans fully comply with ACHA's standards according to the Lookout Mountain Group. "National recognition for the quality and cost effectiveness of our Student Health Benefits Plan is certainly appreciated," said Charles. The plan is reviewed each year by an advisory group of students, parents, professional staff, UNH's student insurance plan administrator, and consultants in student health care delivery and financing systems.

The University of New Hampshire, founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, space-grant and community-engaged university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 11,800 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students.

For more information on the University of New Hampshire Student Health Benefits Plan: <http://www.unh.edu/health-services/shbp/pdf/brochure2009-2010.pdf>.

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